with French industrialists, the areas of solar energy, agro industry and food processing amongst others were considered appropriate for enhanced Indo-French Cooperation.

Export of Ayurvedic Medicines

1769. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1007 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Ayurvedic medicines for treatment of ailments like cardiac, gastro-etc. have ready market in foreign Countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have explored the prospects of their exports; and

(c) if so, what are the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Many of the Ayurvedic medicines which claim to be effective for treatment of cardiac, gastro and similar diseases have export potential. In order to popularise the use of Ayurvedic medicines in overseas countries, the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (Chemex cil), in association with a renowned Ayurvedic Research Centre, have prepared a monograph on "Selected medicinal plants" for publicity abroad and are undertaking all other usual export promotion measures.

Indo-German Trade

1770. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain reports that appeared in some columns of Press mentioning that strength of Indians has increased at the Frankfurt Fair of Germany;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Germany has been found most important European Country by India for trading;

(d) whether increase in trade with Germany can lead Indian industries to East European markets;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action in this regard; and

(f) if so what are the details there of and if not, give reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of Indian companies participating in important trade fairs being held in Frankfurt such as INTERSTOFF (Textile and Fabric Fair), HEIMTEXTIL (Home Furnishing Fair) and International Automobile Show etc.

(c) Germany has emerged as India's principal trading partner in West Europe.

(d) to (f) A surge in demand in the East European countries and the positive trend of India's trade with Germany is expected to offer additional opportunities for Indian exports to the enlarged European Market. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to promote this commercial interchange through measures such as participation in fairs/exhibitions, sponsoring industry specific and product-specific delegations and other export promotion activities.